

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University Assembly and Faculty Senate
September 13, 2011 - 3 p.m.
126 J C Penney**

University Assembly Meeting

The joint meeting of the University Assembly and Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Senate Chair, Dr. Michael Murray.

Chair Murray asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting on April 26, 2011. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

Report of the Chairperson, Dr. Michael Murray:

Dr. Murray reported that all of the Assembly and Senate committee chairs have been elected in anticipation of the Senate's Five-Year Review scheduled for Nov. 16-17. Dr. Murray also announced that UMSL's 50th anniversary will be celebrated in 2013. A Jubilee Committee has been working on plans to celebrate this anniversary and welcomes faculty participation.

Dr. Murray informed the attendees that University Archives has produced a short video about the start of the campus. It will be shown at the Chancellor's State of the University Address on Sept. 21 at 3:00 in the J C Penney auditorium.

Dr. Murray explained that the Chancellor will be briefing the Assembly/Senate today on a proposal for a new initiative in China. Chancellor George will provide more details during his power point presentation and will address any questions.

The IFC retreat will be held on Sept. 21-22. Some of the IFC's expected agenda items are an update to the retirement plan, a performance-based funding model, and discussions about domestic partner benefits.

Dr. Murray asked all of the newly elected senators to stand and be recognized. The senators welcomed them with applause.

Report of the Chancellor, Dr. Thomas George:

Chancellor George reported on the following topics:

- The International Business program in the College of Business Administration was ranked in the top 20 by *US News and World Report*. UMSL's ranking of 15th is the highest in the state.
- This year's enrollment figures indicate that the freshmen class is much larger with a total of 511 students, as well as the transfer students with a total number of 1,900 enrolled at UMSL. The large number of freshmen and transfers indicates that all of the marketing initiatives are working. There are retention issues at the junior and senior level. Chancellor George said that we'll have to examine the reasons why we are having retention problems at that level.

- Dr. George reported that the presidential search is underway. Currently there are only seven curators on the Board of Curators since two have not yet been confirmed. Because the board prefers to have all of the curators in place during the selection of a new president, the search is on hold until the final two curators are confirmed. Airport interviews have taken place in St. Louis and Kansas City. The MS&T (Rolla) chancellor's position is open and is also on hold until the new president has been chosen, so that he/she can appoint the MS&T Chancellor.
- Dr. George gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided details of a new opportunity that UMSL has in China. He explained the proposal which would create a new university called Sichuan Missouri University (SMU) to be located in the Chenghua District of Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. UMSL and MS&T (Rolla) have been approached to provide the following proposed degree programs:

UMSL:

- Business
- Nursing
- Graphic Design
- Social Work and Gerontology

MS&T (Rolla)

- Mining Engineering
- Metallurgical Engineering
- Ceramic Engineering
- Engineering Management

Chancellor George listed some of the positive benefits for UMSL:

- Increased visibility and enhanced brand image in largest higher education market
- UMSL would be the second American university to accomplish this (UMSL would be on the cutting edge.)
- Further enhance UMSL's reputation
- Ability to recruit more students from China
- Generate new source of income
- Increase the study-abroad experience for both students and faculty

Chancellor George has received the Board of Curators' approval to pursue this opportunity. He has met with attorneys in St. Louis who have experience in dealing with China. They have examined the complicated aspects of this type of proposed partnership. Dr. George responded to the questions of the senators. He said that this proposal will be sent to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee for their review.

Report from the President of Staff Association, Ms. Amanda La Brier:

- The Staff Association sponsored an ice cream social for all staff members on Aug. 5, 2011. A total of 204 staff members attended and enjoyed the event at Oak Hall.
- Ms. La Brier reported that Staff Council committees are being organized and open committee vacancies are being filled.
- Ms. La Brier has implemented the idea of having a new speaker at each of the staff council meetings. Recently Elizabeth Pawloski gave a presentation about the Employee Volunteer Program. At the next meeting, Chris Scheetz will provide an update on the plans for UMSL's jubilee celebration in 2013. Also, Ms. La Brier said that the Staff Council is considering other fundraising opportunities for the John Perry Scholarship Fund.

Report from the President of Student Government Association, Ms. Jericah Selby:

Ms. Selby provided a handout and said that the Student Government Association is currently working on these projects:

- Student Fee Review Committee – SGA has improved procedures for presentations.
Tentative Application Deadline – Oct. 21
Presented to the SGA Assembly – Nov. 11
Voted on by the SGA Assembly – Dec. 2
- Constitutional Revisions – A professional parliamentarian was invited to provide guidance to the Student Court and SGA Assembly & Senate.
- Campus Recreation & Wellness Center - Surveys were given to students last year to gauge interest in building a new Wellness Center that would be paid with student fees. Student focus groups are meeting with a firm to discuss the results of surveys.

Ms. Selby invited attendees to the following SGA Programs:

- Please join them on the UMSL Campus Safe Walk – Sept. 21 at 8:30 p.m. at the Provincial House
- Pizza with Professors Event Schedule:
 - CoFAC and College of Arts & Sciences – Oct. 3 – 12:30 - MSC Century Room A
 - College of Business Administration – Oct. 4 – 12:30 – SSB Tower Lounge
 - South Campus Colleges – Oct. 5 – 12:30 – Provincial House Museum Room

Chair Murray asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Faculty Senate Meeting

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by chair, Dr. Michael Murray at 3:35 p.m.

Chair Murray reported that Dr. Joe Martinich had planned to provide an update on the retirement plan, but was out of town. He asked Dr. Murray to report the following update to the Senate:

There should be no change in the pension for current employees, except possibly for those who leave the University and then return after October 1, 2012. The UM Pension and Staff benefits Committee is working on the final details of the pension changes for employees who start work on or after October 1, 2012, but the general features of the new plan will be similar to what was reported last year (part defined benefit plan and part defined contribution plan). The Board is expected to vote on adopting a final change at its October meeting.

Chancellor George commented that as far as the budget is concerned this year, the 8.1% budget reduction that we discussed last year (for FY 2012) will not be a permanent rate reduction. It's viewed as a withholding, so that may be good news.

Other business:

Dr. Sanjiv Bhatia, Chair of the Committee on Committees, brought a nomination to the Senate for the ATP Committee.

Dr. Bhatia reported that Dr. Wolfgang Althof requested that he be excused for one year from the ATP Committee. Dr. Althof will be out of the country when the committee will meet to review dossiers and he asked that a replacement be named during his absence. The members of the Committee on Committees nominated Dr. Lloyd Richardson. The Senate approved the nomination.

Dr. Lloyd Richardson will be notified that his term as an at-large member will begin immediately and end on July 31, 2012. Dr. Wolfgang Althof will return on August 1, 2012 to finish his term on the ATP Committee.

Executive Session:

The Senate met in Executive Session to consider candidates nominated to receive honorary degrees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Willman".

Fred Willman
Assembly/Senate Secretary

(minutes written by Loyola Harvey, Faculty Senate Office)